

## Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee

February 16, 2013

Present: Wynne Chin, Michael Harold, Karl Titz, Michael Zvolensky, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Gemunu Gunaratne, Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Luis Torres, George Zouridakis, Abdelhak Bensaoula; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Anne Sherman, Mark Clarke, Selestia Hodge, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Beverly Rymer, Ashley Merwin, and Cris Milligan.

Absent: Matt Johnson, Frederick Lopez, Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Alessandro Carrera, Stuart Long, Dmitri Litvinov, and Allan Jacobson.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Chair Report: Dr. Lee welcomed everyone.

Review and approval of minutes from 1/18/2013 meeting: Dr. Lee asked for any changes or additions. Anne Sherman highlighted the changes that were received from Dr. Tam and from Dr. Gowl. Dr. Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dr. Zouridakis made the motion to accept the minutes, and Dr. Titz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Report by VP/VC Bose: Dr. Bose addressed the following items:

- Recently, Dr. Bose was in Washington, DC with the Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Regents. They had many meetings with congressional delegations during the 2-day trip. They highlighted the large manufacturing demonstration project to use the UH campus as a demonstration for the technology developed by Dr. Selvamanickam. Dr. Bose said that the technology is important and needs to be transferred to the market. He indicated that NASA wants to partner with us and has developed a white paper. The idea was well received by the congressional delegations.

The second item that Dr. Bose highlighted in his meetings was the need to bring more HSI funding to UH. He is working with a task force created by President Obama to increase HSI funding.

- Dr. Bose also talked about Dr. Bonnie Dunbar, who UH was able to attract from Boeing. She is a former astronaut and wants to build a STEM center here. Dr. Dunbar's proposal to create this center will be vetted by the RSC. While in DC, Dr. Bose also highlighted this center and received positive support for this national center.

### Subcommittee Reports

Resources and Core Facilities: Tam, Lee, Harold, Fletcher, Burns

- Dr. Tam reported that Cris Milligan is assisting the Core Facilities subcommittee in sending out the four proposals for external review.
- Major Instrumentation/Core Facility Task Force: Clarke, Dryer, Lee, Litvinov, Milligan, Porter, Zouridakis

Dr. Lee reported for Dr. Litvinov that Cris had recently sent the list of recharge centers and Dr. Lee will collect information on the equipment in the NSM Core Facilities.

Centers and Institutes: Fletcher, Jacobson, Ogmen, Zouridakis, Palmer, Milligan, and Salazar. Dr. Fletcher, subcommittee chair, reported that comments from December's request have been incorporated into the documents that were sent out recently for final review by the RSC. Both documents will be incorporated into one document and sent forward to Dr. Bose. The Center/Institute spreadsheet was updated and will be sent to the Deans to ensure that they are aware of the findings and classifications. The new guidelines were used in the development of this list.

Regarding the TLC<sup>2</sup> review, Dr. Bose reported again that there had been an external advisory board appointed. Results of this board indicated that ROI is important, and that TLC<sup>2</sup> should go for a \$20-30M grant. Also, it is important to enhance the services provided by TLC<sup>2</sup> in order for the University to recruit quality people to UH for faculty growth.

The next center to be reviewed will be recommended by the RSC. Dr. Bose pointed out that not all reviews will need an external evaluation.

Consortium Policy. Draft guidelines will be sent to the RSC for review and comment. Comments should be sent within 2 weeks. Once comments are received, Beverly Rymer will finalize for the DOR website.

Research Excellence Awards: Dryer, Long, Lopez, Ogmen, Chin and Zouridakis. Applications have been submitted to DOR, and DOR is in the process of getting the letters of support and biographical information from the reviewers. A meeting will be set up with the subcommittee so that decisions can be made, awards ordered, and checks written by 4/19/2013.

GEAR Program: Subcommittee members are: Litvinov, Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Sharma, and Zouridakis. Proposals will be sent to the Deans early next week. Ranked lists are due March 15, 2013. Anne Sherman will set up a meeting for the review and decisions by 4/19/2013.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, Titz, and Torres. Awards have been set up. Dr. Sharma agreed that the subcommittee should meet to discuss the possibility of changing the guidelines of the New Faculty Awards program. Anne Sherman will set up the meeting so that this can be accomplished before the RSC meeting in May.

Update RSC Bylaws: Anne Sherman reported that the draft by-laws have been sent to the RSC and has requested comments, which will be incorporated into the document for adoption hopefully by next RSC meeting.

IDC Distribution Task Force: This task force will meet next week and report will be provided at the next RSC meeting.

Conflict of Interest and Compliance: Dr. Gunaratne indicated that he had not yet attended a meeting.

Intellectual Property Committee: Dr. Dryer reported that there will be a meeting next week and will report next time.

#### **Old Business:**

Tuition Waiver Policy: Dr. Bose gave an update saying that if PIs want to put tuition on their proposals, it is permissible; otherwise, there is no requirement to do so.

Book Subvention: Dr. Clarke reported that he has sent the framework to his faculty and received a few comments regarding the timing of the awards. Anne Sherman reported that with the new InfoEd, we will be able to submit all internally funded proposals via electronic submission.

Tuition Waiver Policy: Beverly Rymer reviewed the three ways that students can receive an assistantship that offers in-state vs. out of state tuition.

#### **New Business:**

Federal Demonstration Partnership: Anne Sherman reported that at the recent FDP meeting, the hot topic for discussion was the new OMB Circular, which was to be released within the next few days after the meeting. It has been released and it is 241 pages long. This document is being reviewed by DOR, and a report will be submitted to the RSC this summer.

Vacation and Sick Leave Policy: Jack Fletcher and Randy Lee. There needs to be a policy or a different process so that when an employee is being charged to a sponsored project and leaves, the current PI he/she is working for does not have to pay for all of the vacation accumulated by that student after working for others. A report will be provided at the next RSC meeting.

Expectations of Extramural Funding and Scholarship for New Faculty Hires: Dr. Bose proposed the following language be considered for addition to the Faculty Handbook and offer letters to new faculty hires:

To sustain its Tier One research status and to achieve recognition as a premiere research university in the country, the University Houston is committed to investing adequate resources to create and manage excellent research infrastructure and to offer competitive start-up package to allow faculty to initiate successful research programs. In return, faculty will use their best efforts to produce high quality scholarly publications and creative activities, and to generate significant extramural funding in disciplines where such funding opportunities are available. In particular, chairs and deans shall communicate in writing to new hires the expectation of generating significant extramural funding, at levels much greater than the initial start-up investment, and substantial scholarship commensurate with the start-up investment during their probationary period.

Dr. Bose remarked that this initiative was discussed with the Chancellor, and she is supportive and surprised that we did not already have a policy for this. Dr. Bose suggested the Faculty Handbook because it forms the general framework around which faculty should operate while at UH. In addition, University resources need to be provided to faculty who are committed to the spirit of this statement.

There was a discussion regarding the fact that some RSC members believe that this policy is already understood and does not need to be spelled out, especially in faculty offer letters and the Promotion and Tenure process, both of which already emphasize external funding.

The Colleges, Provost's office, and DOR need to work together to ensure that the resources are managed effectively and efficiently to the benefit of the whole university.

To that end, it was suggested that there be a task force formed to review the wording and the possibility of putting it into the Faculty Handbook or some other policy document.

The following individuals volunteered to serve on this task force: Dr. Clarke (Chair), Cris Milligan, Dr. Carrera, Dr. Zouridakis, Dr. Torres, Dr. Dryer, someone from the Provost's Office, Dan Luss (nominated by Dr. Harold), and Dr. Lee.

Dr. Bose requested that Dr. Lee recuse himself from the task force, and Dr. Lee complied with the request.

Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: Dr. Lee asked if we have a new Director of EHS. Cris indicated that she is on a committee and will try to find out if a new Director is on board.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Titz, which was seconded by Dr. Burns. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

**The next meeting will be on Friday, March 19, 2013, same location from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**